

These points being gained, there is no doubt but much room is left for improvement, and that will be progressive as in all other machines: but the result of my experiments I now lay before the public; where, I hope, they will meet with a candid investigation, and the utility of small canals be deliberately considered.

TREATISE

CANAL NAVIGATION.

CHAP. I.

OF THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT OF CANALS.

IN contemplating the infinite operations of Art, and reflecting on their progressive improvement, it is an inexhaustible fund of amusement to trace them back to the time when genius called forth the mental powers of our species, and conducted humanity from the wilds of savage life to the cultivated plains of science and refinement.

Ever anxious to dissipate the cloud which intercepts our view of remote times, we endeavour to discover the origin of the subjects we investigate, and to trace them through their various meandrings; pleased, if we find improvement cheer the way, and industry diffuse her blessings through society.

B

Such